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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to write to you in connection with the note dated 29 August 1996 from the President of the Security Council (S/1996/704), which contains the results of the further discussion by the Council of the application of the President's note of 30 July 1996 (S/1996/603) concerning the list of matters of which the Council is seized (rule 11 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council) in the light of the comments made by several members of the Organization to the President of the Council.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba is aware that efforts have been made in recent years to improve the documentation of the Security Council. Cuba commends these efforts in the belief that they can and must contribute to the necessary process of making the Council's decision-making, procedures and methods of work more democratic and transparent.

However, we feel that these measures must in all cases be consistent with the practice reflected in the Council's regular procedures, with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and with the spirit of respect for and observance of the rights and duties recognized by the Charter, both by Member States and by the Security Council, which acts at their behest and on their behalf.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba always believed that a convincing and timely response to questions regarding the procedure set out in the note by the President of the Council contained in document S/1996/603 would contribute to the process of reform in the Council and to the negotiations in progress on this matter, would make this important organ more democratic and transparent and would enhance its credibility. Such a response would also build confidence among Member States and encourage them to continue to delegate to this organ the responsibility for maintaining, on their behalf, international peace and security.

In this connection, the Permanent Mission of Cuba has duly noted the outcome of the further discussion of the application of the President's note, and of paragraphs 2 and 3 in particular. While we consider positive the fact that no item will be "automatically" deleted by the Council from the list of

matters of which it is seized, we would have preferred that the Council had refrained from undertaking an exercise of this nature and that it had continued to act responsibly by consulting in timely fashion with the Member States concerned by those items it might ultimately decide to retain, rather than give this responsibility to the States Members of the Organization.

The discussion of the procedure set out in document S/1996/603 did not, unfortunately, result in the most appropriate decision or the one most desired by many Member States. However, it provides a necessary indication that the Council recognizes its obligations to all Members of the Organization to render its procedures and methods of work transparent.

With regard to the procedure set out in paragraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c) of document S/1996/704, the Permanent Mission of Cuba has the honour to state that the Republic of Cuba is interested in retaining items 7, 8, 15 and 47, indicated in the annex to that document, on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bruno RODRÍGUEZ PARRILLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative